

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 188 without my signature.

This bill would provide an “income disregard” under the CalWORKs program for income received as a result of an individual’s active duty in the California National Guard.

While I sympathize with the financial hardships faced by California's active duty military personnel and their families, the CalWORKs program is not the right vehicle for extending benefits to National Guard families. CalWORKs is an anti-poverty program designed to provide cash grants, employment services, and supportive services to low income families to assist them in moving from poverty and unemployment to self-sufficiency. Active duty National Guard members are fully employed.

I have signed several legislative measures this year designed to protect California’s military and their families from financial hardship when actively deployed. These measures include SB 513, AB 276, AB 980, AB 1594 and AB 1666. Collectively, these bills represent solutions that both private and public institutions can implement in order to better serve our military and their families protecting California and the United States.

For these reasons, I am returning SB 188 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger